priately located, as it is, I seriously doubt that any of the other nearby businesses would have raised objections to Deighton's plan.

If churches insist on locating in a business complex they should have no right to complain about what businesses their neighbors are in, or plan to be in, so long as the business is legal and complies with the law.

— **Bill Wanner Jr.**
Colorado Springs

Oct. 24

Just vote no on Amendment 2'

The Gazette Telegraph's Oct. 18 editorial supporting Amendment 2 was flawed for three major reasons.

First, enactment of civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination against gay and lesbian citizens does not constitute an endorsement of homosexuality. Civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion protects adherents of all religions, for example, including some faiths that many people would find incomprehensible. This legislation does not "endorse" those faiths; rather, it simply declares that a person's religion has nothing to do with that person's job qualifications. The same is true of legislation protecting gay and lesbian citizens from discrimination.

Second, Amendment 2 does infringe upon the basic rights of lesbian and gay citizens. Amendment 2 violates the constitutional principle that all citizens have equal protection under the law. Amendment 2 targets one class of citizens and declares that this class, and this class alone, does not possess one of the rights all other citizens possess — the right not to be discriminated against. A class of citizens forcibly stripped of a basic right obviously is denied the equal protection of the law.

Amendment 2 destroys another basic right of these citizens — the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. This is a principle upon which our country was founded, a principle that cannot be abandoned. If Amendment 2 passes, these citizens will no longer be able to effectively petition the government for any redress of the grievance of discrimination, since government will have no power to enact laws forbidding discrimination against them.

Amendment 2 infringes upon a third basic right — these citizens' right to privacy. Our nation was established on the principle of individual liberty, the notion that individuals have the inalienable right to "the pursuit of happiness." By penalizing gay and lesbian citizens for being who they are, Amendment 2 violates their autonomy.

Amendment 2 takes away from these citizens a fourth basic right — the right not to be discriminated against, the right to be judged fairly and on the basis of one's qualifications, in employment, housing, and public accommodations. This is a basic American right, a guarantee all citizens should have.

Third, being gay or lesbian is not mere "sexual behavior." My lesbianism is a fundamental aspect of who I am. My lesbianism determines how I identify myself, whom I love, and the nature of much of my life.

Just vote no on Amendment 2.

— **Robin Miller**
Colorado Springs

Want change? We've got it

Change.

That is what the polls are saying the American public wants.

We already have it. The Cold War is over and change came with it. And it is unstoppable. The military, as it is decreased (and wasn't that what we all wanted, cuts in the military?), trickles down through guns, tanks, uniform manufacturers and civilian jobs as well as GIs, airplane engines, etc.

Did we really think no jobs would be lost? Peace has a high price. Those industries need time to retool in order to rehire.

Blaming President Bush — who led us in a Gulf War that "wowed" the world and brought Russia to its knees by the full realization of our might — doesn't make sense. He was even smart enough to leave the Baghdad leader with his own bag of worms.

No matter who you vote for, getting all those unemployed people a job once again is not going to happen overnight. Change is already here — now the hard part has arrived.

Hang in there. Sloppy as it often is, our country does more for the homeless, jobless and disabled than any other in the world.

— **Phyllis Berry**
Colorado Springs

LETTERS WELCOME

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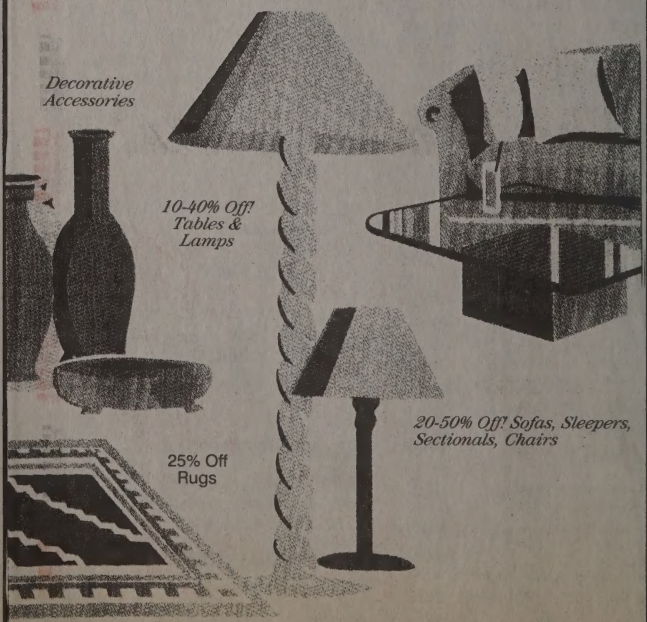

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